

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSFERRING ATM SERVICES

## Abstract of the Disclosure

A method and apparatus are provided for transferring an ATM call. A  
5 first ATM call (124) is established between a first party (120) and a second  
party (116) and a second ATM call (128) is established between the second  
party (116) and a third party (118). The first and second ATM calls both  
include a plurality of segments (124a-d, 128a-d) or connections that are  
coupled to a plurality of ATM switches (208, 210, 212, 214) over ATM facilities  
10 to provide virtual connections. The transfer is accomplished by sending a  
message to the ATM switch over the ATM facility (109) to request the transfer  
of the first party to the third party. The message identifies the first ATM call  
and the second ATM call. The switch makes a new connection (220) between  
the first ATM call and the second ATM call and releases the segments of the  
15 first and second ATM calls that connect the ATM switch to the second party.  
As a result, the first party and the third party are connected for  
communication.